

12-08-03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Bruce J. Thompson et al. Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
Serial No.: 10/645,440 Group Art Unit: 2161
Filed: August 20, 2003 Docket: 40134.0001US1
Confirmation No.: 9208 Notice of Allow. n/a
Due Date: n/a Date:
Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR OPTIMIZING EMPLOYEE SCHEDULING IN A PATIENT CARE ENVIRONMENT



CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10:

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EV 300137687 US
Date of Deposit: December 4, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

By: Jenifer Weck
Name: Jenifer Weck

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

23552
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449, 0 Reference(s)
- Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
612.332.5300

By: T.B. Scull
Name: Timothy B. Scull
Reg. No.: 42,137
TBS Scull/jw

S/N 10/645,440



PATENT

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By: *Jenifer Week*
Name: Jenifer Week

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is not provided because it was previously cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in parent application, U.S. Serial No. 09/872,292 filed on June 1, 2001.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a

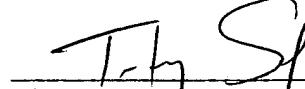
reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

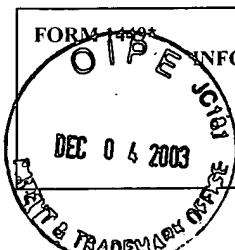
Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 12/4/03



Timothy B. Scull, #42,137
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303.357.1648



 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IN AN APPLICATION (Use several sheets if necessary)	Docket Number: 40134.0001USII		Application Number: 10/645,440	
	Applicant: Bruce J. Thompson et al.			
	Filing Date: August 20, 2003		Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,065,315	11/12/91	Garcia	364	413.01	
	5,732,401	03/24/98	Conway	705	29	
	5,748,907	05/05/98	Crane	395	202	
	5,809,477	09/15/98	Pollack	705	3	
	5,924,074	07/13/99	Evans	705	3	
	5,991,728	11/23/99	DeBusk et al.	705	2	
	5,111,391	05/05/92	Fields et al.	364	401	
	5,923,018	07/13/99	Kameda et al.	235	385	
	5,913,201	06/15/99	Kocur et al.	705	9	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
						YES
	WO 97/25862	07/17/97				
	EO 97/40463	10/30/97				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)						
		International Search Report for PCT/US01/17837				

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EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.